

# APPLY FOR GUNS TO ARM THE SHIPS OF AMERICAN LINE

Formal Request for Equipment Was Made To-day by President Franklin of the Steamship Company, Following the Intimations from Official Quarters That Efforts Would Be Aided

## PREPARE TO DEFEND AGAINST SUBMARINES

United States Government Will Not Actually Arm Merchant Craft and Will Not Formally Advise the Arming, but Will Put the Guns at the Disposal of Ship Owners

Washington, D. C., Feb. 12.—P. A. S. Franklin, president of the International Mercantile Marine, to-day made formal application to the navy department for guns to arm the passenger ships of the American line.

Strong intimations were given in official quarters last night that while the government will not actually arm merchant craft or even formally advise arming, a way will be found to put weapons at the disposal of owners who desire to prepare for defense against illegal attack.

The enforced illness of the American merchant fleet is being viewed with growing disquiet, and the general view here is that not only the export trade but the nation's standing before the world demands that American vessels continue to ply the high seas without regard to the German proclamation, which the government has repudiated with the most severe means in its power short of war.

**German Proposal Not Well Received.**

Germany has made a move to prevent war with the United States. In a manner that diplomacy calls "informal," the imperial government has offered suggestions intended to pave the way for discussion that will overcome the present critical situation in the relations of the two nations and afford a possible agreement by which American ships and American lives will not be subjected to the dangers of the relentless submarine warfare.

The United States government received advance information Saturday of what the German government would like to accomplish. Dr. Paul Ritter, the Swiss minister, who has represented German interests here since the break in relations, called at the state department late in the afternoon and in a long interview with Frank L. Polk, counselor of the state department, is understood to have made him acquainted with expressions of Germany to the government of Switzerland in regard to the resumption of friendly relations between Berlin and Washington. No formal note was presented by the Swiss minister. That may come later.

The German proposal delivered Saturday apparently has struck no responsive chord here. No official note was indicated yesterday whether a reply already had been given, but there was no disposition to deny that the proposal had been made or that the American government regarded it as an effort on the part of Germany to beg the issue. It was made clear everywhere in government circles that there was nothing to discuss unless Germany desired to stop abridging American rights illegally menacing American life.

## GERMANY IS HOLDING AMERICAN SAILORS

Pending Information About Status of Interned Germans in the United States.

Berlin, via wireless to Associated Press, via Saville, Feb. 12.—Foreign Secretary Zimmermann to-day informed the Associated Press that he had requested the Swiss government to make an inquiry at Washington regarding the status of the crews of the interned German ships in American ports.

Pending the answer, the 73 Americans taken by the German raider and brought in on the Yarrowdale, whose release had been agreed upon, are being held in Germany, the foreign secretary stated.

### GERMANS MISINFORMED.

They Believed German People in United States Were Interned.

Berlin, Feb. 12 (by wireless to Saville, N. Y.).—With reference to the present condition of German-American relations, the German foreign secretary, Dr. Alfred Zimmermann, made the following statement yesterday to the Overseas News agency:

"We now have practically no speedy or reliable information about the United States. The best proof of this is furnished by two wireless messages which were sent Feb. 5 by the correspondent in the United States of the German news agency and which arrived yesterday. The contents of these two short messages were astounding, even sensational, for they told that the United States government had not confiscated German ships in American ports, nor interned Germans residing in the United States."

"Until yesterday morning all we knew about these matters had passed through

# GERARD IS NOW ON SWISS SOIL

Suffered Many Indignities Before Allowed to Leave Berlin

## HIS TELEPHONE WIRES WERE CUT

Ambassador Was Glad to Get Out of Reach of Germans

Washington, D. C., Feb. 12.—Official reports on the arrival of former Ambassador James W. Gerard and his suite at Zurich, Switzerland, reached the state department to-day from American Minister P. A. Stovall of Berne. They added nothing to the information already published.

Zurich, Switzerland, Feb. 11, via Paris, Feb. 12.—Most of the members of Gerard's large party heaved a sigh of relief this afternoon when the Swiss border was reached, for the strain of the last few days told more or less seriously on a majority of the travelers. The strain of the situation for the Americans in Berlin had been heightened toward the end by the efforts of the German authorities to induce Gerard to open negotiations for an amendment to the Prussian-American treaty of 1779.

At the same time the newspapers were flooded with reports of the seizure of German ships by the United States and with stories of indignities encountered by Von Bernstorff.

Gerard was refused permission to communicate in cipher with Washington. His telephone wires were cut and his mail and telegraphic privileges stopped so that he could not even instruct the American consuls and he was, in his own words, a prisoner.

### CORDIAL LEAVE-TAKING.

Representatives of German Foreign Office Saw Gerard Off.

Berlin, via wireless to the Associated Press, via Saville, Feb. 12.—James W. Gerard, the American ambassador, and his staff, left Berlin at 8:10 o'clock Saturday night for Switzerland. Besides the embassy staff, 120 other Americans accompanied him.

The leave-taking was very cordial, members of the foreign office seeing the ambassador off. Mr. Gerard will await instructions in Berne before proceeding.

The train on which the ambassador left Berlin consisted of ten coaches. Fully 200 Americans, who were remaining in Berlin were on hand to regretfully take leave of their countrymen, who after a week of tension, due to strenuous preparations for leaving, were somewhat distraught.

"Good-bye, Judge," someone shouted as the train started, and Mr. Gerard, leaning far out of the window of his car replied, "Auf Wiedersehen on Broadway."

The former ambassador's face bore a smile as he waited for the train to depart, and expressed himself optimistically with regard to further developments in the German-American situation.

At the station Count Montgelas, head of the American section of the foreign office, and Herr von Prittwitz, personal representative of Foreign Minister Zimmermann, were present to bid Mr. Gerard farewell. The diplomatic corps was represented by the Spanish ambassador, the Greek minister, the Dutch minister and the diplomats of the South American republics. The military authorities and the foreign office assigned special officers to accompany the train to the Swiss frontier, where it was due to arrive at 8 o'clock Sunday morning. On the way to the frontier the train picked up a score or more Americans attached to consular offices in southern Germany.

### GIVES NO INTERVIEW.

Gerard Forestalls Any Effort to Quote Him on Crisis.

Copenhagen, Feb. 12, via London.—"I have given no statement or interview on the submarine situation or on the present crisis to any newspaperman; shall not do so after crossing the frontier and I intend to say nothing for publication regarding the situation until after reaching Washington and reporting to the president and the secretary of state." Ambassador James W. Gerard reiterated to the correspondent of the Associated Press at Berlin in the final conversation had with Mr. Gerard before the correspondent's departure from the German capital. The correspondent was requested to cable it immediately upon reaching an uncensored telegraph station, the ambassador adding:

"Anything in the nature of a statement or interview purporting to come from me earlier during the crisis, now, during the journey or upon my arrival in America can therefore be regarded as a fabrication."

The ambassador said he feared attempts to saddle him with responsibility for utterances that were not his by irresponsible correspondents seeking a "good story" and that he took this means of heading off any such efforts, which might most mischievously effect the general situation.

### ARRIVAL IN SWITZERLAND.

Gerard Was Greeted by American Officials and Swiss People.

Zurich, Switzerland, via Paris, Feb. 12.—The American ambassador, James W. Gerard, arrived at the Swiss boundary at Schaffhausen at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon. He was met by the American minister in Switzerland, Pleasant A. Stovall, and representatives of the Swiss army. A Swiss military guard of honor was also in waiting and a big delegation

of citizens greeted the former American ambassador to Germany.

The trip from Berlin was made with out noteworthy incident, although some curiosity was displayed by those who gathered along the route through Germany.

Mr. Gerard disembarked at Zurich with about 120 other Americans, intending at first to remain there, but when he was assured of accommodation at Berne, he left immediately for that city. He will remain in Berne for two or three days, arranging for his trip to Paris.

### SAW MYSTERIOUS SHIPS.

Unknown Vessels Did Not Seem to Be of Allied Ownership.

New York, Feb. 12.—Two mysterious vessels, one said to have been a submarine, the other having every appearance of being a German raider or submarine supply ship, were sighted in midocean Monday, Feb. 5, by officers and passengers of the American line steamship Kroomland, which arrived here yesterday from Liverpool. On Feb. 1, one day out from Liverpool, those on board declared they witnessed the destruction of a Dutch freighter by shell fire from a submarine. The Kroomland then was about 11 miles off the Irish coast and opposite Fastnet light. The crew of the ship sunk took refuge in a lifeboat and were towed away by the submarine, it was said.

While the Dutch ship was being destroyed, nine other ships could be seen closer in shore, but no vessel was in sight. A British cruiser, however, had been sighted earlier in the day.

Early in the morning of Feb. 5, officers of the Kroomland sighted, several miles off the Kroomland's port bow, what they declared was a submarine. All they could see was the conning tower—looking like the funnel of a steamship, partly submerged. The craft approached within a couple of miles, remained in sight for about 15 minutes, then disappeared.

Two hours later the officers added, a one-funnel ship painted black or some dark color appeared. It had two lookout stations on the foremast and a derrick rigged forward of the funnel, with the boom swung out at an angle of about 45 degrees. No signals were given, and those set by the Kroomland were unanswered. For some time the mysterious stranger kept a course parallel to the Kroomland, then veered sharply, swung in a circle away from the American liner, and disappeared.

The vessel did not answer any description of British or entente allied ships.

### TO TRY TO UNITE.

Republicans and Progressives Plan Another Conference.

New York, Feb. 12.—William R. Willcox, chairman of the Republican national committee, in a letter last night to George W. Perkins and Everett Colby, Progressive members of the Republican campaign committee in the recent election, announced his intention of calling a meeting of the national committee, probably in May or June next. On Jan. 31, Mr. Perkins and Mr. Colby addressed a letter to Mr. Willcox, in which they urged him to call a meeting of the national committee "to discuss fully and openly the grave and important questions that confront our country to-day."

In his reply, Mr. Willcox points out that it would be inopportune now to call the national committee together, because "events have taken place which have brought our country to the verge of war."

Mr. Willcox calls attention to the fact that the executive committee of the national committee, at a recent meeting, decided the full committee should meet once a year "instead of less frequently."

He added, however, that inasmuch as the national committee had not met since last June, he had intended calling it together "before the expiration of the year."

After referring to Mr. Perkins and Mr. Colby's desire that the Republican party should be "the one cohesive organization of the regular Republican vote, the Progressive vote and the independent vote."

### ON THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Nichols Were Honored by Their Friends.

Knights of Pythias with their wives and other guests made merry Saturday evening in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Nichols, who were reminded in a forcible fashion of their 25th wedding anniversary, when a company of nearly 40 people called at their home on North Main street. It was a surprise for Mrs. Nichols and much more of a surprise for her husband, who has been active in the upbuilding of Vincennes lodge of Pythians since it was established a quarter-century ago. The guests took possession of the Nichols home before either of the principals in the ceremony of 25 years ago were aware of what was to take place. R. S. Currier was chosen spokesman for the company, and after Mr. and Mrs. Nichols had recovered fairly well from their surprise, he presented them a purse of silver. Fitting responses were made by the host and hostess. A social evening followed and before the visitors departed there were refreshments of ice cream, cake and wafers.

Mr. and Mrs. Nichols were married in Shamokin, Pa., Feb. 10, 1892, and have resided in Barre since the wedding. Mr. Nichols being a life-long resident of the city. As a member of the Pythian lodge, he possesses the unique distinction of having missed fewer than 20 meetings since it was organized in 1892. In eight years he never missed a meeting. He is a past chancellor of Vincennes lodge and has been one of the most faithful workers in its behalf.

### FIRE AT PLATTSBURG.

"The Republican" Plant Was Badly Damaged.

Plattsburg, N. Y., Feb. 12.—The plant of the Plattsburg Republican was badly damaged by fire late yesterday. The pressroom was flooded. The fire started in the boiler room.

**NEW MINISTER TO U. S.**

Ignacio Bonillas Has Been Appointed by Carranza.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 12.—Ignacio Bonillas, one of Carranza's representatives on the Mexican-American joint commission, has been named as ambassador from Mexico to the United States.

# HOTEL GUESTS JUMPED

Others Caught by Flames Were Burned—The Death List at Minneapolis This Morning Will Be Between 15 and 20—Fire Escape Became Too Hot to Use

## INFURIATED CROWD FOUGHT FIREMEN

The First Apparatus to Arrive Did Not Carry Ladders with Which to Rescue the People at the Windows and Crowd Became Frantic at the Delay

Minneapolis, Feb. 12.—Between fifteen and twenty lives were lost in a fire which destroyed the Kenwood hotel early this morning. A score were injured, some of them seriously, by leaping from the windows when the fire-escape became heated. Many of the 26 guests were transients, and the actual death list probably never will be known and the identification of the bodies, if anything remains of them, probably will be impossible.

The fire, which apparently started in the basement, spread rapidly and soon the entire four-story building was enveloped in flames. When the fire was discovered, the firemen were at another fire some distance away and it was fifteen minutes before the first piece of apparatus arrived. The first company to arrive had no ladders and the crowd of spectators, becoming infuriated, attacked the firemen, according to the statement of Fire Chief Kinger. The police quelled the disturbance, and a few minutes later another company with ladders arrived. Those who escaped from the building had no opportunity to dress and they suffered terribly from the temperature of ten degrees below zero.

### FOURTEEN CHILDREN SAVED.

They Were Rescued from Flames at Biddeford, Me.

Biddeford, Me., Feb. 12.—Fourteen children, ranging in age from one to 14 years, were rescued from the burning home of J. Milton Forbes last night. The little ones were boarded at the house of the York county Children's Aid society. All were asleep when the flames were discovered. Mr. Forbes, assisted by members of his family and by neighbors, made repeated trips through the smoke and flames until the last child had been brought to safety. Mr. Forbes was slightly burned about the face and his hands while carrying out the two. The children suffered somewhat from cold, as the temperature was four degrees below zero. The fire, which is thought to have started from defective wiring, did not get into the ell of the house, and the loss was not heavy.

### SUFFERED FROM COLD.

When Driven Out of St. Albans House By a Fire.

St. Albans, Feb. 12.—About six o'clock Sunday morning an alarm was sounded from box 36 for fire in what is known as the old French convent, now owned by a man by the name of Bombardier and occupied by three families. Fire started in a clothespress and had worked up through the partitions and spread over a part of the attic when the department arrived. Two lines of hose were laid, the firemen being greatly handicapped in their work by the deep snow and the cold weather. In about a half hour the fire was under control. The damage was about \$200. Some of the inmates of the house, including several small children, were exposed to the weather with insufficient clothing for temperature several degrees below zero.

### BIPPUS—RHIND.

Barre Young Woman the Bride of Hartford, Conn. Man.

At the Presbyterian manse on Wellington street Saturday evening, Miss Annie Walker Rhind, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Rhind of Washington street, was married to William F. Bippus of Hartford, Conn. Rev. Edgar Crossland performed the ceremony, the single ring service being used. Friends accompanied the pair to the parsonage and witnessed the wedding.

Acquaintances of the bride learned with surprise yesterday of her wedding to Mr. Bippus. Her marriage to a local young man in the near future had been anticipated by her friends and for a time some of her intimate acquaintances refused to give credence to the report of the wedding.

The bride has been employed in Barre as a milliner. Mr. Bippus is an electrician by trade and some years ago he was in the employ of the Barre Electric Co. He came to Barre for a visit last week. Mr. Bippus left this forenoon for Hartford.

# FRED KING, FORMER MERCHANT, DEAD

Well Known Citizen Started Jewelry Store in Barre in 1882 and Remained in Business Here 30 Years.

Fred King, for many years a jeweler of Barre, died at his home, 84 Washington street, this forenoon at 9:30 o'clock. He had been in failing health for nearly three years, having been stricken seriously ill for the first time in April, 1914. The only near relative surviving is Dr. T. A. King of New York, a nephew.

The deceased was born in Easton, N. Y., April 16, 1840, the son of George W. King and Sarah (Hoag) King. After attending the public schools of his native town, he entered the store of Charles Fitch in Plattsburg, N. Y., where he learned the trade of watch making. There he remained for three years, at the expiration of which period he formed a partnership with his brother, W. King, the two men opening a general store in Moores, N. Y., where the deceased remained for eight years. Afterward he worked for 11 years at his trade in Crown Point, N. Y., where he conducted a jewelry store in connection with his watchmaking business. In 1882 he came to Barre and opened a jewelry store at the corner of North Main street and Depot square. In time he came to be recognized as one of the substantial business men of Barre. He remained in charge of his store until August, 1912, when he disposed of the business to V. D. Carleton, having earned a well deserved rest.

Mr. King's marriage to Mrs. Cornelia E. (Reed) Jones, a daughter of Charles Reed of this city, took place July 20, 1887. Mrs. King's death occurred Oct. 29, 1908. The deceased was a member of the Congregational church in Barre.

Funeral services will be held at the house Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. Rev. J. W. Barnett, pastor of the Barre Congregational church, officiating. The body will be placed in the receiving vault at Elmwood. It is requested that flowers be omitted.

### DEATH OF JOHN RAE.

Barre Young Man Died After Several Years' Illness.

John Rae passed away at his home, 34 Pleasant street, Sunday evening at 8:30 o'clock. Mr. Rae had been in declining health for the past four years and within a month he had been compelled to abandon work in a shoe repairing shop which he conducted at his home. The end followed a sinking spell which came at noon yesterday. He is survived by his wife, who was Miss Jeannie McMillan, to whom he was married in Barre 10 years ago; his daughter, Iris Rae, aged 7; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Rae of East Montpelier; three sisters, Miss Christina Rae, who is passing the winter in Florida, Mrs. Harry McAllister of East Barre and Miss Agnes Rae of this city; and his brother, Alexander Rae of Barre.

The deceased was born in Scotland 32 years ago and accompanied his father and mother to Barre in 1890. After attending the city schools he learned the granite cutter's trade and was employed by local manufacturing concerns for some years before ill health necessitated his retirement. With characteristic vigor, he set about to learn the shoemaker's trade and with such determination did he apply himself to the work that he mastered the craft within a short time. He was employed at times by the Tilden Shoe Co. and also conducted a repair business of his own. Mr. Rae was a young man of many winning qualities and he was held in high regard by a very large circle of acquaintances. He was a member of Clan Gordon, No. 12, O. S. C., and belonged to Iroquois tribe, No. 16, I. O. R. M.

The funeral will be held at the house Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Rev. J. W. Barnett, pastor of the Congregational church, officiating. The body will be placed in the vault at Elmwood to await interment in the spring. It is requested that flowers be omitted.

# MUTILATED BODY FOUND ON TRACK

Batiste Lesser, Jr., of Shelburne Had Been Run Over By Train—Body Was Frozen Stiff When Found.

Burlington, Feb. 12.—The body of Batiste Lesser, Jr., whose home is in Shelburne, was found early yesterday morning about a mile south of Shelburne depot, frozen stiff and unrecognizable, having been run over by a train some time during Saturday night. Identification was made by means of a pay envelope found in the pocket of the coat.

Lesser's body was found by Felix Barcomb, a section hand, who was walking the track, about 7:30 o'clock yesterday morning. It was found about a mile south of the depot near a path which leads from the railroad track to the home of Batiste Lesser, sr., his father, who lives in French village. It is supposed that Lesser, who had not been seen at his home in the east part of the town since Friday, was on his way to his father's home when he was hit by a train. It was the man's plans to cut ice with his father to-day.

The body was lying about four feet from the track when found and was frozen solid, making it seen probably that it had laid there after being hit by a late evening train. The head was badly crushed so that the body could not be recognized, the pay envelope in the pocket of the coat bearing the man's name proving his identity. The left arm was broken between the elbow and shoulder and there were many other bruises about the body.

Dr. W. H. Mitchell, health officer of Shelburne, Selectman Thomas Mitchell and Constable G. N. Roberts were summoned to view the remains after which they were taken to the home of the man's father. Later they were brought to the undertaking rooms of Read & Dower in this city.

Lesser was 36 years of age, and, besides his parents and wife, he is survived by six children, Jennie, Rose, Anna, Dorothy, Ethel, and Edward; by three brothers, William and Fred of Shelburne, and Edward of Greenfield, Mass., and by one sister, Mrs. Gustave Tatro of this city.

# MERCURY HITS THE LOW SPOTS

Coldest Weather of Winter Spread Over the Eastern Section of Country

## OFFICIAL RECORD AT NORTHFIELD—24

Points in Vicinity of Saratoga N. Y., Reported .10 Below Zero

Officially and actually, this was the coldest day of the winter. At the U. S. weather bureau in Northfield the lowest temperature recorded was 24 below zero at 8 o'clock. After that there was a slight relaxation of Jack Frost's hold, although the prediction for to-night was very cold weather, with little warmer Tuesday. The cold wave seems to have been general over the eastern part of the United States.

As usual, the unofficial thermometers in Barre and vicinity beat the Northfield official weather. Various tubes registered 30 below zero, while others were more than 40 below zero. Granite manufacturers got away badly with their week's work with no beginning in the city to-day. In many instances granite workers were notified in advance that the "nothing doing" sign would be turned to the weather. Cold rails interfered with freight traffic on the Barre & Chelsea railroad and on its initial trip to the hills the train crew of one of the heavy freight trains failed to make the grade.

### BOSTON AT ZERO.

Coldest Temperature of the Season Reported There.

Boston, Feb. 12.—The coldest weather of the winter was reported at a number of points in New England to-day. In Boston the minimum was zero. At Northfield, Vt., it was 24 below, at Burlington, Vt., 18 below and at Portland, Me., 10 below.

The official temperature reading in this city at noon was 8 above, and weather bureau officials said they did not expect the thermometer to reach more than 10 above, if that, during the day. They said it would be considerably colder in New England early to-morrow.

### 40 BELOW NEAR SARATOGA.

Many Places Recorded Coldest Temperature of the Winter.

Saratoga, N. Y., Feb. 12.—It was 40 degrees below zero at many places in this vicinity this morning, the weather being the coldest of the winter.

### DIGGING OUT OF DRIFTS.

Railroads Have Hard Time—Some Trains Canceled.

Burlington, Feb. 12.—The Rutland railroad for three days has had gangs of men, numbering between 125 and 150, busy between Ascutt Corners and Henryville and near Henryville Junction, with shovels and a big snow plow, trying to break through the snow drifts. That is only half the story. Not a single train, it is said, on either railroad has been on time during the last two or three days, and three trains were annulled entirely, one on the Central Vermont and two on the Rutland. No. 52 on the Rutland out of Montreal, due here at 11:00 p. m., was not run on Friday or Saturday, and train No. 6 on the Central Vermont, leaving Montreal at 9:00 p. m. and due into this city at 12:30 a. m., also was withdrawn Friday night.

The northern divisions of the two roads were affected the worst, and the Rutland, especially, over the Quebec, Montreal & Southern, whose track it uses, had the worst difficulties for a time that it has experienced in years. Reports have come into the city off and on regarding the troubles of the roads, and the Rutland's big new snow plow was at the union station Friday, after tussling with drifts along the line, but that was only the beginning of difficulties.

The snow crew had to be increased on Friday night and again Saturday, according to the meagre reports available, and the final force of more than 125 was only successful in bringing back traffic to something like normal shape Sunday night.

The Ogdensburg division of the Rutland was also hit by the storms, and snow plows even last Friday were busy as far as Malone.

# DR. H. D. HOLTON OF BRATTLEBORO DEAD

He Had Been Prominent in Many Walks of Life in Vermont—He Was Born in Rockingham 78 Years Ago.

Brattleboro, Feb. 12.—Dr. Henry D. Holton, aged 78, died shortly before noon to-day of cancer of the pancreas. He had been in ill health for more than a year. He was president of the American Public Health association in 1902 and was secretary of the Vermont state board of health for 19 years prior to 1912. He served in both branches of the legislature. At the time of his death he was president of the Vermont National bank, the Austine institution, the Home for the Aged and other institutions.

Henry Dwight Holton was born in Rockingham on July 24, 1838, the son of Eliza and Nancy (Grout) Holton. He was educated at Vermont academy and at the University of New York, from which institution he received an M. D. degree. He located in Putney and in 1867 came to Brattleboro. He was a Mason, being a charter member of Brattleboro lodge, No. 102. In religious life he was a Baptist and had been president of the Baptist state convention.